



LENNY GILMORE/REDEYE



Monday
NOVEMBER 28, 2016

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A Chicago Tribune
publication

ALDEN EHRENREICH & LILY COLLINS NAVIGATE HOLLYWOOD,
SHAME & FORBIDDEN ROMANCE IN 'RULES DON'T APPLY' 8-9

BREAKING THE RULES



Where to have fun indoors **3**

Gifts no one wants to get **4**

So, about those Bears **6**

EAT

THANKSGIVING WEEK SPECIALS**Belly Up Smokehouse & Saloon**
1132 S. Wabash Ave. 312-929-3856

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**ENDLESS JAMS****Slippery Slope**2357 N. Milwaukee Ave.
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**'DEER AND THE LOVERS'****The Den Theatre**
1333 N. Milwaukee Ave. 312-857-6406

First Floor Theater presents the world premiere run of Emily Zemba's farce about a couple whose romantic New Hampshire getaway is disrupted by a deer crashing through their window. 7:30 p.m. \$10-\$20. Tickets: firstfloortheater.com/deer

MENTAL GRAFFITI**Cafe Mustache**
2313 N. Milwaukee Ave.
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Share your original poems at the monthly open mic, which features performances by spoken word artist Ashlee Haze and DJ HSHBRWN/Kynshasa Ward. 8-10 p.m.; sign-up starts at 7:30 p.m. \$5 suggested donation.

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Sun!**WEDNESDAY****48° 36°**
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Save the date

Eat, Drink, Do's weekly look at a month's worth of shows, tunes, foodie and boozy fun and more

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
November 27	Head back to Page 2 for today's Eat. Drink. Do. events.	HOLIDAY MARKET AT LINCOLN PARK ZOO 2001 N. Clark St. 312-742-2000 Shop for jewelry, art and more from local shops and artisans while taking in the ZooLights display. The zoo will also collect coats and winter clothing. 6:30-10 p.m. \$10. Tickets: lpzoo.org/holiday-market	'ELECTRODIDE: ANCIENT ELECTRONIC GODDESS' AT IO CHICAGO 1501 N. Kingsbury St. 312-929-2401 Bryant Smith's electric beat boxing funk opera tells the epic tale of Electrodide, who battles The Evil Regime while sailing a ship powered by The Groove. 10:30 p.m. \$5. Tickets: ioimprov.com/chicago	December 1	ULTRA EXCLUSIVE MUSTACHE PARTY AT THE DROP LOUNGE 1909 N. Lincoln Ave. 312-574-0898 The fourth annual bash benefiting the Movember Foundation includes well drinks, domestic beers and bites from Bricks Pizza. 8-10 p.m. \$20. Tickets: us.movember.com	
28		29	30	2	3	
4		HOLIDAY CAVA CLASS AT THE SPANISH SQUARE 1358 W. Belmont Ave. 773-717-7900 Taste and learn about five varieties of the Spanish sparkling wine. The tasting also includes still varieties and appetizers. 7-9 p.m. \$30.	MATT RUBY AT TIMOTHY O'TOOLE'S PUB 622 N. Fairbanks Court 312-642-0700 See the New York-based comedian record his debut standup album. 7:15 and 9:30 p.m.; doors open at 6:30 and 9:15 p.m. \$10-\$15. Tickets: mattrubyrecording.brownpapertickets.com	 MICHAEL TERCHA/Tribune File	LIVE MOVIE RIFFING WITH THE MADS AT THE LOGAN THEATRE 2646 N. Milwaukee Ave. 773-697-3563 Frank Conniff and Trace Beaulieu of "Mystery Science Theater 3000" screen and mock two different bad movies. 7 and 10 p.m. \$35. Tickets: themadsdec9.brownpapertickets.com	
5		6	7	8	9	10
	BUILD-A-BIKE WORKSHOP AT HERITAGE BICYCLES 2959 N. Lincoln Ave. 773-245-3005 Learn how to build a bike from the frame up at this hands-on, small group class. BYOB and be prepared to get greasy. 7-9 p.m. \$45. Tickets: dabble.co	MERRY MALBEC AT ARTANGO BAR & STEAKHOUSE 4767 N. Lincoln Ave. 872-208-7441 Try five varieties of the varietal paired with Argentine appetizers and get a lesson on the wine's complexities. 6:30-8:30 p.m. \$30.			UGLY SWEATER SALSA DANCE PARTY AT DUET DANCE STUDIO 2412 W. North Ave. 312-823-8199 The BYOB bash includes a 45-minute beginner salsa class, student performances, a sweater contest and open dancing. 9-11 p.m. \$20. Tickets: duetdancestudio.com	
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
CONCERT FOR PEACE AT ALHAMBRA PALACE RESTAURANT 1240 W. Randolph St. 312-726-3846 Fulcrum Point New Music Project's 18th annual holiday concert features music from David Lang and more plus poetry readings by Stella Binion and Malcolm London. 4 p.m. \$10-\$20. Tickets: brownpapertickets.com	LAST CHANCE HOLIDAY SALE AT THE HIDEOUT 1354 W. Wabansia St. 773-227-4433 Shop for books, art, jewelry, home goods, records, cookies, cream puffs and more at the 18th annual event. 6-9 p.m. Free. Donations benefit the ACLU of Illinois.					
18		19	20	21	22	23



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JOIN THE CONVERSATION



The guide to gifts that will ruin your relationship

By **The Second City** | FOR REDEYE

Whether you're more of a Black Friday elbow-thrower or a Cyber Monday add-to-cart-er, no one's safe from dropping mad amounts of dough on holiday gifts. Even the most thoughtful among us know that "It's the thought that counts" is a bunch of bull, the really expensive kind of bull that people like to show off at high school reunions and brunch.

So in that spirit, we want to save you from a gift gaffe by serving as your "Ghost of Bad Presents Future." Here's our best advice on what to never, ever give your significant other for the holidays ... unless you want to be alone next year.

- » A subscription to eHarmony.
—Bina Martin
- » "Student Loan Debt for Dummies!"
—Ross Taylor
- » If they're Republican, "Hamilton" tickets.
—Patrick Rowland
- » A coupon to "add one to your celebrity exemption list."
—Andrew Thorp
- » A nose and ear trimmer.
—Glenn Earth
- » The CycloMop! (Look it up, it's a real thing.)
—Rob Kozlowski
- » The book "It" by Stephen King. An ex said it reminded him of me ... WTF?!
—Kimmie Companik-Warner
- » A participation trophy.
—Winter Davis
- » The worst gift to give to your significant other is herpes ... and the last season of "Roseanne." (The lottery? Really?)
—Dewayne Perkins
- » A drone. Many people are up in arms about drones in warfare, but on the domestic front, people just keep losing fingers and fingertips in those little suckers.
—Rebekah Walendzak
- » Divorce papers. Or a Fitbit. Both not good.
—Natalie Marsh
- » As someone who is perpetually single, I will gloss over this question and treat myself.
—Amie Taylor

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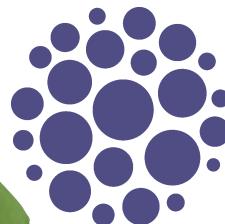
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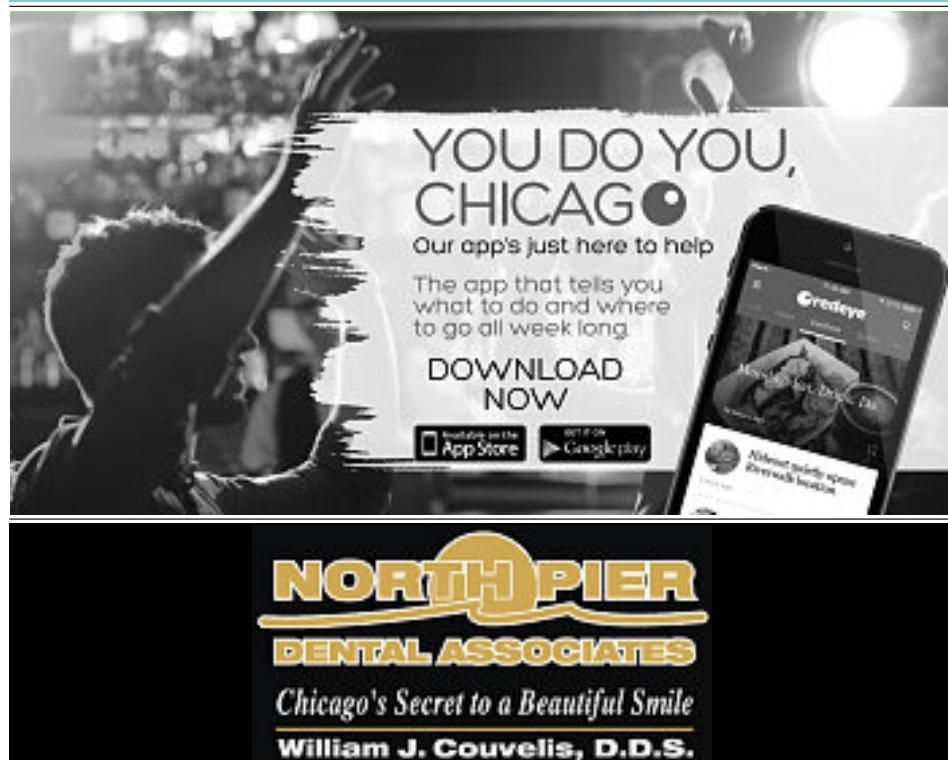
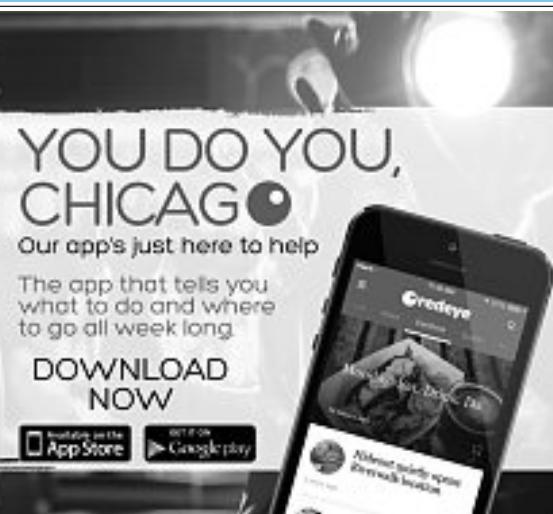
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WHOOPS

GOLDEN OPPORTUNITY TO GRAB THIRD WIN SLIPS THROUGH BEARS' FINGERS

By Chris Sosa | REDEYE

All season, the football gods have kicked Bears fans when they're down.

As the losses have piled up, so have the injuries and the suspensions for performance-enhancing drugs. Case in point: Linebacker Danny Trevathan left Sunday's game against Tennessee with a knee injury that coach John Fox said looks to be serious.

Pouring even more salt in the wound, third-string quarterback Matt Barkley put the Bears in position to upset the Titans, only to see receivers Josh Bellamy and Deonte Thompson drop sure touchdown catches on the first- and fourth-and-goal, respectively.

"I should've had it," Thompson said of his miscue. "I saw it late. I've got to make that play."

The Titans won 27-21, and the Bears are 2-9. That. Stings.

Bears fans also got a glimpse of what might have been had the team drafted Marcus Mariota before the 2015 season. The second-year

Tennessee quarterback looked like a 10-year veteran in leading his team to the victory, with most of his work completed ahead of the final-minute drama.

What's that? You had no idea? That's understandable. Maybe you were hanging holiday decorations Sunday. Or nursing a shopping hangover. Or plotting your next fantasy football draft.

Whatever the case, we've got answers to the most pressing (or at least the most interesting) questions from an ultimately gloomy afternoon.

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Is Marcus Mariota for real (asking for a fantasy football-playing friend?)

The short answer is yes. He's got 21 touchdowns and only three interceptions in the Titans' past eight games after Sunday. Now, is he surrounded by talented running backs, a solid offensive line and a serviceable defense? Yes, though Mariota's efforts have enhanced Tennessee's recent resurgence.

When he wasn't dropping perfectly-placed deep balls on the Bears secondary, he was sprinting past defenders.

FYI, here's how the 23-year-old Mariota stacks up against the 33-year-old Jay Cutler the past two seasons (including Sunday's game).

Mariota: 24 games, 242.2 passing yards per game, 44 touchdowns, 18 interceptions

Cutler: 20 games, 235.9 passing yards per game, 25 touchdowns, 16 interceptions

The best Bears fans can hope for right now is

either Cutler's shoulder miraculously heals itself, or the team drafts a suitable replacement.

Is Jordan Howard a mirage?

Doesn't look like it, and that might be the best thing anyone can say about the Bears at this point. The rookie running back wasn't flawless Sunday, yet he still was the most dangerous offensive player for the Bears, per usual. That's despite dropping a potential touchdown pass in the first quarter. He ended up with 84 yards rushing (4.7 per carry) and 43 receiving.

What did we learn about Matt Barkley?

That he didn't seem overwhelmed by the first start of his NFL career. Nor when the fourth-year quarterback threw a pair of costly interceptions in Tennessee territory, including one into triple coverage in the end zone. Nor when receivers dropped a disturbing amount of passes, to by the Tribune's count. Nor when facing questions from reporters about said dropped passes.

"I was seeing everything clean, and our guys were getting open," Barkley said of the fourth quarter, when he led the Bears on a pair of touchdown drives. "I like pushing the tempo like that when you can have the advantage [of defenses playing off]. ... The last [dropped pass by Bellamy] just hurts knowing that we had it."

Who the eff is Daniel Brown?

Bears fans probably Googled the hell out of him when the tight end caught a 7-yard touchdown pass—his first in the NFL—from Barkley in the first quarter.

ICYMI, the Bears claimed Brown off waivers from Baltimore on Oct. 24; Zach Miller's injury last week thrust Brown into the spotlight.

Will the Bears' situation improve next week?

If it is going to get better, next week will be the week. The team visiting Soldier Field next Sunday, the San Francisco 49ers, is even worse than the Bears at 1-10. So there's hope, minuscule though it might be.

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Were there any Cubs players at Soldier Field to celebrate the World Series victory?

If there were, they were immersed in the rest of the sparse crowd on hand. Cubs chairman Tom Ricketts carried the trophy onto the field for a few moments before the game while "Go Cubs Go" played on the stadium's speakers.

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Who had the best line Sunday?

Had to be injured Bears offensive lineman Kyle Long, via Twitter: "Yes [Brown] looks like of those Abercrombie ads in the mall I tell him at least three times a week to put a bag on his head makes me look bad!"

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movie



Alden Ehrenreich

Lily Collins

Law of attraction

Lily Collins and Alden Ehrenreich on 'Rules Don't Apply' and navigating young Hollywood

By Lauren Chval | REDEYE

Thank God you did that." Alden Ehrenreich was in the middle of answering a question when Lily Collins, his co-star in the film "Rules Don't Apply," got up from the sofa to get him a napkin. She had noticed some tea had dribbled from his cup into the saucer and was dangerously close to spilling everywhere.

"It would be all over your pants," she explained. He smiled at her and wiped the bottom of the cup before continuing his answer.

"Put that on there before you put it on there," Collins interrupted again, directing him to mop up the spillage on the saucer, lest the whole process begin again. Ehrenreich gave her an amused little look.

"Sorry!" she said in a tone that suggested she knew she was mothering him. He didn't seem to mind.

The pair enjoys an obvious ease between them, teasing but also helping and building off each other. The dynamic makes the scenes between their characters the most engrossing of the film. "We really hate each other," Ehrenreich joked when their chemistry was mentioned, but their unusual rapport isn't just a product of two actors hitting it off. Before filming began, the two spent a lot of time rehearsing and getting to know each other in writer/director Warren Beatty's home.

"I think a lot of it came from those bizarre experiences at his house," Collins said. "Just having these memories that we could share. Like, remember that day we had nothing to do and we ended up playing Trivial Pursuit?"

"Rules Don't Apply" is Beatty's first film in 15 years, and it's the story of Frank and Marla, two religiously devout young people falling in love in 1950s Hollywood while under contract with the mysterious and eccentric Howard Hughes (Beatty). Neither Collins nor Ehrenreich formally auditioned for the film—instead, they spent months simply meeting with Beatty before he ever let them read the script and then eventually offered them their parts.

According to Ehrenreich, this is Beatty's way: He gets a sense of a person until he feels he can trust them.

"I think he just is constantly vetting. He uses everyone around him and gets everyone's opinions on everything in the film," Ehrenreich said. "Because he's asking you, you end up having input on decisions in the design department and costume department and casting department in all these different ways, because he always says he picks the best people and then uses them, trusts them, asks their opinion."

Beatty's trust level for Collins and Ehrenreich grew so high that he has suggested that his two stars essentially served as co-directors of the film. It's a notion that makes both of them laugh ("I think he likes to think we had a hand in it," Collins said), but they both admitted the way Beatty involved them has changed the way they look at the filming process.

"The way in which I look at a scene now, I do see the overall picture. So I'm planning ahead, and I'm looking at the location and we're kind of scoping out where certain lines should go and playing around with the location and the set," Collins said. "I've experienced other directors asking me, 'Do you want to direct one day?' But never already saying, 'You're doing it. You know you're doing it'



right now? You're doing it."

Though Howard Hughes casts a long shadow in the movie, the heart of "Rules Don't Apply" is the relationship between Frank and Marla, who struggle with their attraction in light of their commitment to sexual puritanism. Ehrenreich said he found it hard to relate to the all-consuming nature of the resulting shame, but he thinks it still lives in our society to a lesser degree—he said that Beatty often pointed out the Monica Lewinsky scandal as an example.

"I think any transgression against the value system you grew up with [causes shame]," Ehrenreich said. "I just did a movie about soldiers in Iraq, and that's in a much different way, related in the sense that you're brought up your entire life thinking the worst thing you can do is kill somebody. And then you kill people. And then how do you reconcile that?"

Collins, who wasn't raised religious, agreed with the sentiment that shame is about more than religion.

"I was raised by my mom pretty much, and she just had this very non-judgmental, having no shame about yourself, no regrets, just trusting your gut and your instinct and treating yourself with respect," the 27-year-old said. "So for me, I would feel ashamed if I went against something I really believed in because someone else told me to. So it's kind of similar, but it's not in relation to just sex. It's with anything."

Beneath sexual tension and guilt, there's an undercurrent of melancholy running through "Rules Don't Apply." The title comes from a song Marla writes about her

“... You set little goals for yourself. Sometimes they’re more reachable than others, but you think about the number, and then people are like, ‘You’re pushing 30!’ Whatever. Everyone just says all these things, but you just take every day as it comes.” —Lily Collins, actress

anxieties of standing out in Hollywood—fears about dreams unfulfilled and time passing too quickly.

"Was it far too late to do what I dreamed I would do?" the song asks. It seems unfathomable considering how young Marla is, but Collins said it's not too far from her reality. She turned 25 while filming the movie and said she finally understood the song not as Marla, but as Lily.

"I was like, 'Wait, there are all these up-and-coming girls that are 18, 19 that look older than me and they're getting roles that I had thought that I wanted,'" Collins said. "I had a little bit of an 'I feel old' [moment]. Then I had to take a step back and realize how ridiculous that sounded because in the big scheme of things, I'm still so young."

"But I guess always being an extremely driven person, you set little goals for yourself. Sometimes they're more reachable than others, but you think about the number, and

then people are like, 'You're pushing 30!' Whatever. Everyone just says all these things, but you just take every day as it comes."

Ehrenreich admitted he thinks anxiety over aging can be harder on women than on men. Though he can remember times in his career where he wished certain markers of success had already happened to him, the 27-year-old doesn't feel that way anymore. Getting cast as young Han Solo in an upcoming "Star Wars" film will do that for you.

Collins has plenty in the works, too. She has three films slated for 2017, as well as the publication of her first book. ("A collection of essays and letters," she said. "I'm trying to get away from the memoir word.") She said the writing experience helped her unearth hard truths about herself by forcing her to go to dark places.

"But now, however, since I've written those chapters, I feel such a weight off my shoulders that I think I'm better able to articulate going to those periods of my life and those experiences to better help me in acting," she said.

Acting has its hard times too. But luckily, Collins wasn't without support to help her through those.

"Sometimes, there were difficult, darker moments on set where we were going through a lot and exhausted," Collins said. "And in those moments you just have to laugh, and hopefully you have someone there with you to go through it with."

She looked over at Ehrenreich fondly. "And thank God."

@LCHVAL | LAURENCHVAL@REDEYECHICAGO.COM

'Rules Don't Apply' chooses wrong focus



Lauren Chval

» laurenchval@redeyechicago.com
» [@lchval](https://twitter.com/lchval)

Eccentric, mysterious, larger than life—Warren Beatty and Howard Hughes have more than a few things in common. Beatty kicks off his Hughes-centric film, "Rules Don't Apply," with a quote attributed to the entrepreneur: "Never check an interesting fact." It's clear that he doesn't mean for this to be a biopic, but he runs into trouble assuming that his take on Hughes is interesting.

What happens?

In 1964, Howard Hughes (Beatty) is set to call into a press conference to confirm his mental well-being, but his staff is having trouble getting him to pick up the phone. A little over five years earlier, we meet Marla (Lily Collins), a young, religious beauty queen from Virginia whom Hughes' team brings to Los Angeles to be one of his contracted starlets. Frank (Alden Ehrenreich) is one of her assigned drivers, and the two strike up a close friendship, despite clear rules about not getting involved with one another. Hanging over them is frustration at never meeting Hughes himself, until both suddenly get closer to him than they expected.

What's good?

Collins and Ehrenreich have fantastic chemistry, and every scene between Marla and Frank is a delight. They struggle with their place in Hollywood, their conservative backgrounds and how that truly factors into their identities. There's a lot of longing and melancholy at the heart of the film, giving it depth. Despite this, it kicks off as a romantic screwball comedy aided by some of the best character acting you'll ever see, and the premise seems truly promising until ...

REVIEW
Rules Don't Apply

★★★☆☆
PG-13

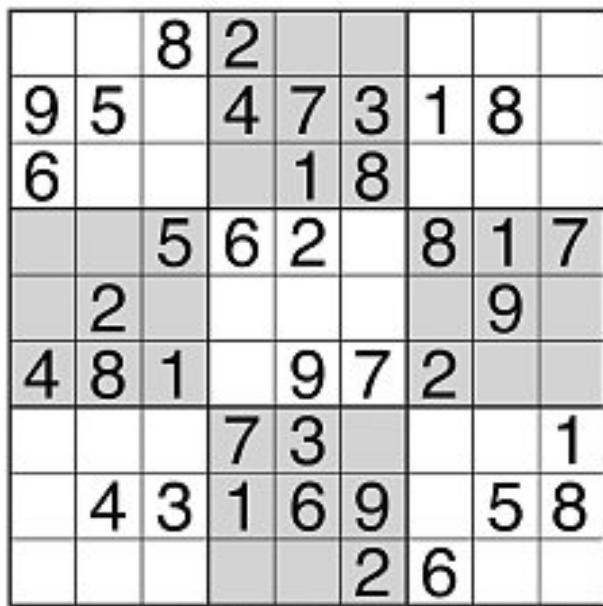
What's bad?

... Hughes gets involved. Once Marla meets him, the film is all about Hughes, and his eccentricity turns out to be enabled paranoia and mental illness. The movie is held prisoner to the whims of a weirdo, no longer funny or interesting or tense. Also, the film is marred by pacing issues and distracting cuts, making you wonder what's really supposed to make sense.

Final verdict

"Rules Don't Apply" is not without its merits—namely, Collins and Ehrenreich—but it turns its attention away from things that matter toward things that don't.

puzzles



DIFFICULTY RATING: ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



WEDNESDAY'S SOLUTIONS



ACROSS

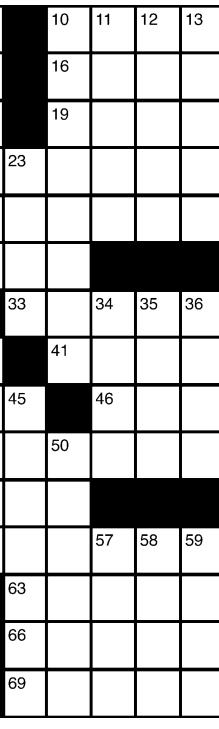
1 Up; quits
 6 Made fun of
 10 Pianist and singer
 Domino
 14 Ascend
 Burn
 16 Monster
 17 Explorer _ de León
 18 Roll call response
 19 Harness strap
 20 More devious
 22 Sports venues
 24 Brooches
 25 Easily broken
 26 Church season that began yesterday
 29 Perhaps
 30 Recline
 31 Kelly & Siskel
 Street talk
 37 Peggy & Spike
 39 Confrontation
 41 Dishonest one
 42 Strip of leather
 44 Hip-length shirt
 46 Grad. degree
 47 Ship poles
 49 Elegant
 51 Galore
 54 Heartless
 55 Citrus fruit
 56 Home loan
 60 Sushi ingredient
 61 Command to a horse
 63 "Here _ gone tomorrow"
 64 Box of _; golf shop purchase
 65 Be a breadwinner
 66 Clear the slate
 67 to; increases
 68 Recolors
 69 Freeway exits

DOWN

1 Spaces
 2 Element whose symbol is Fe
 3 Grape bearer
 4 Flee
 5 Looking for
 6 Hardwood trees
 7 Look searchingly
 8 In one _ and out the other
 9 Dismal; gloomy
 10 Predict

11 Insurance policy seller
 12 Courtroom event
 13 Good judgment
 21 Bury
 23 BBQ favorites
 25 Sink
 26 Know-it- _; smart alecks
 27 Count calories
 28 Swerve
 29 Lists of dishes to be ordered

32 Kooky
 34 Goals
 35 Captures
 36 Hair color
 38 Uniformity
 40 More pleasant
 43 Hunger pain
 45 Sound of dishes being stacked hastily
 48 Continued to worry
 50 _ goat; mohair source



51 Vital artery
 52 Used a lever
 53 Intertwined
 54 _ and groans; complains
 56 Once _; again
 57 Actor Sandler
 58 Inhale suddenly
 59 Peepers
 62 Stable dinner

TODAY IN THE YEAR ...

1520: Portuguese navigator Ferdinand Magellan reached the Pacific Ocean after passing through the South American strait that now bears his name.

1861: The Confederate Congress admitted Missouri as the 12th state of the Confederacy after Missouri's disputed secession from the Union.

1964: The United States launched the space probe Mariner 4 on a course toward Mars, which it flew past in July 1965, sending back pictures of the red planet.

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Chicago Tribune

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JOBS SECTION

Position	Company	Location	Weblid
Position	Company	Location	Weblid

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		3496117

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CDL Regional & OTR Drivers Wanted	Deltaura	Elk Grove Village, IL
		3557867

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Retail

Binny's Beverage Depot

Binny's Beverage Depot is the Midwest's largest upscale retailer of fine wines, spirits, beers and cigars, and due to our continued growth, we now have the following retail opportunities available in multiple locations to qualified persons over 21 years of age:

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 Lakeview * Lincoln Park * Grand Ave/Downtown * South Loop
 Skokie * Lincolnwood * Elmwood Park * River Grove

We are seeking energetic, customer-oriented individuals to perform a variety of store functions. Qualified persons must be able to lift 40-50 lbs. and be available to work flexible hours. Previous retail experience a plus, with cashier or stock experience preferred. Candidates must be able to work nights & weekends. These are part-time positions with potential for full-time.

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 Lincoln Park * South Loop * Logan Square

Candidates will have good working knowledge of wine varieties, countries and regions. Qualified persons must be able to taste wines in a professional manner as allowed for educational purposes, as well as continue to develop knowledge of wine and other products.

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 South Loop

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In return for your skills, we offer growth opportunities and attractive compensation.

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EDUCATION/TRAINING LINCOLN'S CHALLENGE ACADEMY Having trouble in high school? Education *Discipline* Job Skills LCA offers a structured education program for Illinois Youth 16 to 18 www.lincolnschallenge.org

Jane Addams Middle School 27th Annual Holiday Craft Show Saturday, December 3rd, 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. 905 Lily Cache Lane, Bolingbrook, IL 60440 630-312-0735

Prostate Conditions Education Council to Host FREE Patient Dinner Calling all prostate cancer patients & caregivers! Join leading physician Dr. Leonard Gomella on December 8 at Seasons 52 in Oakbrook at 6:30 PM for a free dinner and to learn about treatment options and other important topics regarding prostate cancer. Call Lindsay McBride to RSVP. 303-999-2571

AUCTION RESTAURANT EQUIPMENT ONLINE AUCTION Lots start ending on November 29th at 10 am Vernon Hills, IL items include Two Kitchens, Two Bar Areas, Three Seating Areas, Patio Furniture, More! www.xfactorauctions.com 847-844-9922

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ANTIOCH \$445,000 60002 22647 W SILVER LAKE AVE OTHER http://www.tourfactory.com/1625882 Sunday Open House 12/4/16 from 1:30-4pm Elegant lakefront home with private dock fully rebuilt in 2002. Granite & SS kitchen, Hardwood, Luxury Master, Fully finished walk-out, basement overlooks lake. In-ground pool, outdoor kitchen & fireplace.

INGLESIDE \$340K 60041 189 RABBIT RUN SFH A great Conventional built home with log siding. 16yrs old 2x6 construction 4br. 3ba. 2 car garage on a lot of 1.27 acres. Contact owner 847-829-5728

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CHICAGO \$1000 60653 4542 SOUTH KING DRIVE, 3RD FLR APARTMENT

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Chicago Tribune

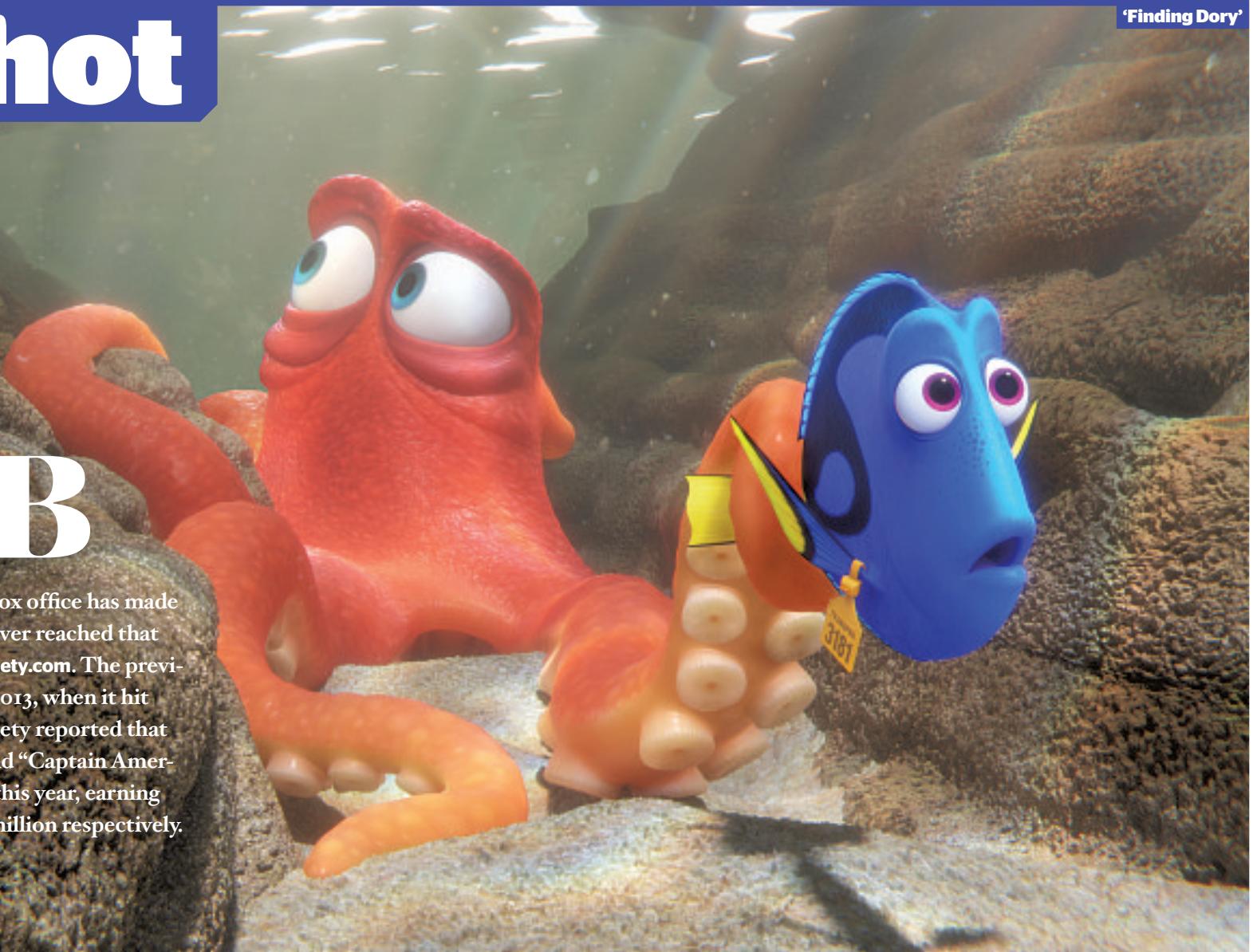
red hot

'Finding Dory'

THE DIGIT

\$10B

That's how much the U.S. box office has made this year, the fastest it has ever reached that milestone, according to variety.com. The previous record time was set in 2013, when it hit that number on Dec. 7. Variety reported that Disney's "Finding Dory" and "Captain America: Civil War" led the way this year, earning \$486.2 million and \$408.1 million respectively.



John Mayer
GETTY IMAGES FILE

John Mayer is all of us

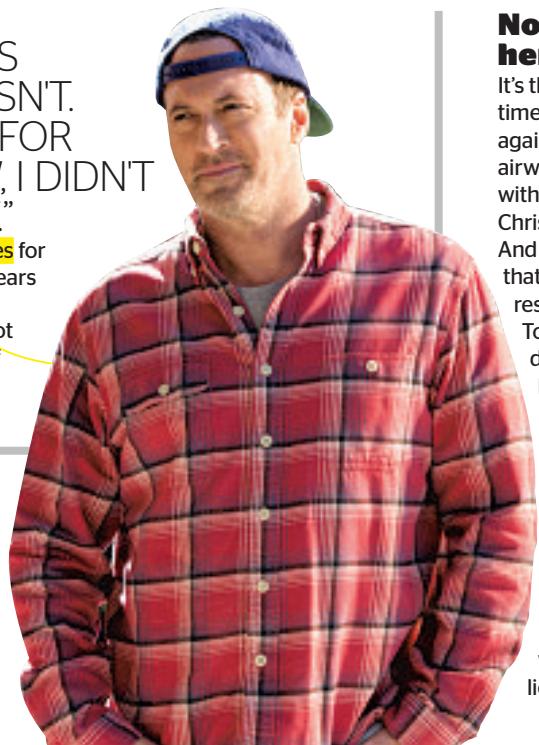
Over the holiday weekend, John Mayer discovered NBC's "This is Us," and just like us, it wrecked him. The singer tweeted, "Just saw the first episode of 'This is Us' and I'm hooked. Cryin' and hooked." He added, "Not even wiping away tears for the next episodes. Just gonna let the first ones create tracks for a more even, efficient flow." Same, John. Same. Just let the tears flow.



THE QUOTE

YOU KNOW, I THOUGHT IT WAS GOING TO BE EASY BUT IT WASN'T. AND THEN FIRST DAY ON SET FOR ME, THE FIRST DINER SCENE, YOU KNOW, I DIDN'T REALLY FEEL LIKE LUKE. I DIDN'T FEEL IT."

—**Scott Patterson**, to *Vulture*, about stepping back into the role of Luke Danes for Netflix's "Gilmore Girls" revival. Patterson added, "I've changed a lot in nine years and I just ... I kind of lost the character in nine years because I haven't been thinking about him, and it was a really small window for the time the show got okayed, we got the script, and then we started shooting. There wasn't a lot of time to prep. But, yeah, it all came flooding back."



Ed Sheeran got shanked

Kind of, anyway. Multiple U.K. publications have reported that the British singer received a sword injury at a Royal Lodge in Windsor party. According to vulture.com, James Blunt (YUP) asked Princess Beatrice of York to fake-knight him with a ceremonial sword. When she lifted the sword, she accidentally sliced Sheeran's cheek. HAHAH. We're sorry. Sheeran needed medical attention, but he was well enough to perform the next night, *Vulture* said.

No surprise here

It's that damn time of the year again when our airwaves are filled with nothing but Christmas music. And to celebrate that, Billboard researched the Top 10 most downloaded holiday favorites. It should come as no surprise that Mariah Carey's "All I Want For Christmas Is You" is at the top of the list, with 3.2 million downloads.